

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0573
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1125

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: DETAINED JOURNALIST ENOUCH DUMA

REF: PRETORIA 0936 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. DUMA, ALONG WITH AITKEN RAMUDZULI, AGAIN APPEARED BRIEFLY IN COURT IN JOHANNESBURG ON FEBRUARY 24. DUMA READ A STATEMENT TO THE COURT IN WHICH HE SAID "I DENY THAT I AM GUILTY OF ANY OFFENSE. I DID NOT JOIN ANY CONSPIRACY, NOR DID I EVER JOIN OR SUPPORT THE ANC. I WAS NEVER IN POSSESSION OF ANY EXPLOSIVES AND I DID NOT KNOWINGLY ASSIST ANYONE TO COMMIT ANY OFFENSE. I AM OPPOSED TO VIOLENCE. MY WORK MAY HAVE BROUGHT ME INTO CONTACT WITH PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF VIOLENCE BUT I DID NOT KNOWINGLY ASSIST ANY OF THEM TO COMMIT ANY UNLAWFUL ACTS." AFTER DUMA'S STATEMENT, THE JUDGE POSTPONED THE HEARING UNTIL APRIL 10. IT WILL BE HELD IN KRUGERSDORP, WEST OF JOHANNESBURG.

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2. ON FEBRUARY 28, AN EMBOFF VISITED BRIEFLY WITH DUMA. HE IS NOW BEING HELD AT "THE FORT" IN JOHANNESBURG BUT EXPECTS TO BE MOVED TO KRUGERSDORP ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE THE TRIAL. DUMA WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS AND HEALTH. SINCE BEING BROUGHT TO "THE FORT", HE SAID HE HAS HAD REGULAR VISITS FROM HIS FAMILY AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXERCISE DAILY. DUMA SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF

THE TRIAL, FEELING THAT CHARGES WOULD HAVE TO BE DROPPED BECAUSE THEY ARE, "AFTER ALL, RIDICULOUS." DUMA REITERATED THE VIEW EXPRESSED BY HIS LAWYER (REFTEL) THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE SEPARATED FROM RAMUDZULI FOR TRIAL PURPOSES. DUMA EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR EMBOFF'S VISIT AND FOR THE CONCERN SHOWN BY THE EMBASSY AND THE USG FOR HIS WELFARE. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY IF ANDY YOUNG HAD BEEN AWARE OF HIS CIRCUMSTANCES. EMBOFF SAID THAT HE BELIEVED YOUNG WAS AWARE THROUGH REPORTING FROM THE EMBASSY AND ADDED THAT THE USG HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HIS WELFARE TO THE SAG.

3. EMBOFF BROUGHT ALONG, AT THE SUGGESTION OF DUMA'S WIFE, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. ALTHOUGH THESE WERE ORIGINALLY ALLOWED IN BY PRISON OFFICIALS, A SERGEANT LATER INFORMED THE EMBOFF THAT DUMA COULD NOT RECEIVE THEM. "HE'S A SECURITY PRISONER, YOU KNOW", SAID THE NCO. THIS HAPPENED EVEN THOUGH DUMA SAID HE REGULARLY RECEIVES READING MATERIAL FROM HIS FAMILY. ALSO, THE EMBOFF WAS MADE TO WAIT OVER THIRTY MINUTES WHILE AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT NCO'S AND OFFICERS CONSULTED AND MADE TELEPHONE CALLS PRIOR TO ALLOWING HIM ACCESS TO DUMA. OTHER THAN THOSE TWO EVENTS, THE EMBOFF WAS TREATED WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT AND FRIENDLINESS. THE EMBOFF FELT HE DETECTED SEVERAL ALLUSIONS BY THE NCO WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM TO SECURITY POLICE OMNIPOTENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTER THE INCIDENT WITH THE READING MATERIAL, THE EMBOFF SIGHED WITH RESIGNATION, TO WHICH THE NCO REPLIED, "WELL YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE POWER. WE DO THE BEST WE CAN".

4. EMBOFF INTENDS ON VISITING DUMA ANOTHER TIME OR TWO BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO KRUGERSDORP AND THEN WILL ATTEND THE APRIL 10 HEARINGS. BOWDLER

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